



## EL DORADO HILLS, CA

- LAKEHILLS ESTATES - A FIREWISE COMMUNITY
- SOUTHPOINTE - A FIREWISE COMMUNITY
- LAKERIDGE OAKS - A FIREWISE COMMUNITY

March 2019

# Lakehills Fire Safe Council Community Bulletin

Promoting Fire Safe Communities

### March Council Meeting:

Tues., March 12th, 7 pm  
EDH Fire Department  
Main Station #85  
El Dorado Hills Blvd. and  
Wilson Blvd.

Come meet EDH's new Fire  
Chief!

### PLEASE SUPPORT!

As a small non-profit, the Fire Safe Council runs on donations. Many benefits have been provided by this group of volunteers: education, reduction of dangerous fuel loads, defensible space reviews, free BBQs, etc.

When you select Lakehills Fire Safe Council as your charity choice on **Amazon Smile**, a portion of your purchase is donated to us. Thanks to those who already partner! Make a donation to the Fire Safe Council...every time you buy....Thanks!



[<<REGISTER HERE>>](#)

### Reporting Numbers to Call

Report non-desired activities in a proper and timely fashion.

- Report illegal parking or traffic problems to the Highway Patrol (916) 861-1300.
- Report illegal parkland activities to State Parks (916) 358-1300.
- Report illegal activity on non-park properties to the Sheriff (530) 621-6600.

## Welcome our new Fire Chief—join us on March 12th!

At our first Fire Safe Council meeting of 2019, we are proud to have as our guest EDH's new Fire Chief, Maurice "Mo" Johnson. The Fire Department has been a steadfast supporter of LHFSC since its inception in 2012. Partnering with both neighbors and agencies has become a force multiplier and proven very powerful — cooperation and cohesiveness are key. We hope you will bring your friends and neighbors to meet Chief Johnson.

There will be time after the meeting to meet and greet and to enjoy refreshments.

## Affordable Fire-Resistant Homes - Bloomberg article by Chris Favelle

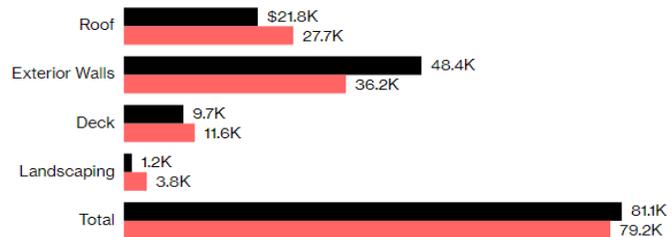
In the economics section of Bloomberg, a November 28, 2018 article claims that fire-resistant homes don't have to cost a fortune. Adding a fire-resistant roof, vents and gutters on the home would increase material costs by \$6,000, or about 27 percent. Fire-resistant doors and windows would also raise the expense by another \$5000.

But those additional costs would be offset by the use of fiber-cement siding, which is fire-resistant and less than half the price of more commonly used cedar-plank siding. Altogether, the authors found that building the home to comply with the model wildfire code would be **2 percent less expensive** than traditional construction.

### Burn Protection

Cost of home-construction components, with and without wildfire resistance

■ Typical construction ■ Wildfire-resistant construction



Source: Headwaters Economics, "Building a Wildfire-Resistant Home: Codes and Costs"

This research was sponsored in part by the insurance industry and marks the first attempt to quantify the expense associated with building residences that meet stringent flame-resistant criteria. Few states have adopted such codes, often citing housing costs, but the new findings suggest fire-plagued communities could curb damages and save lives with minimal effect on the home buyers. Read the entire article here: [<<CLICK HERE>>](#)

## Expanding Communications

With the assistance of Rob Vomund, the Fire Safe Council is adding new methods of communications to our efforts. Gathering neighbors' email addresses, writing articles, creating & sending monthly newsletters has been our pattern over recent years. Soon, we plan to expand our audience by utilizing both FaceBook and NextDoor platforms to distribute information about safety, defensible space, fuel reduction projects and local items of interest. Although some items may be duplicated, most posts will be unique campaigns. Don't let the "under construction" dust put you off! We hope you follow us and offer suggestions as we explore this new path!

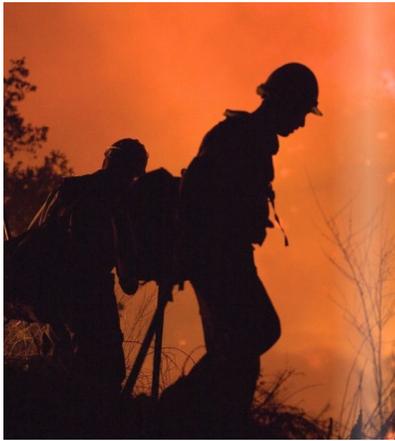
<https://www.facebook.com/LakehillsFireSafe/>

Our thanks to Rob for being an enthusiastic volunteer who joins in assisting this community effort.

Lakehills Fire Safe Council is a community organization. Join and Email us at: [lakehillsfiresafecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:lakehillsfiresafecouncil@gmail.com)

## Camp Fire - Ember Ignition (adapted from NFPA blog by Michele Steinberg 1/28/19)

On a tour of the devastation caused by the Camp Fire in Butte County, it was observed that wildfire is an equal opportunity destroyer, leveling high-end homes and more modest manufactured homes across the communities of Paradise and Magalia. According to the incident synopsis provided by the Western Fire Chiefs Association (see “Sources of Risk” insert below), one of the major considerations was ember ignition, ember ignition, ember ignition. **The Camp Fire was all about ember ignition.**



Paradise and surrounding areas are in a pine forest, the ground was littered with pine needles. Ponderosa Pines drop about 1/3 of their needles each year...even those who had ‘raked’ their yards had a new fuel bed due to the wind.” The synopsis also indicated that there were areas where urban conflagration took place – when one structure ignited it provided enough radiant heat and embers as it burned to ignite the next structure, and so on.

It was clear that the destroyed homes observed were more flammable than the vegetation around them. On this tour of the devastation, textbook cases were seen of the impacts of embers, structure-to-structure ignition and wind-driven wildfire all through the communities of Paradise and Magalia.

The region has enormous challenges ahead in recovery. Even residents whose homes survived are still out of their homes due to benzene in the

drinking water. Small business owners whose physical locations survived have few customers left in the area. The wholesale destruction of thousands of residences in a region where the housing market is already squeezed and contractors are in short supply predict a long and difficult road ahead. There are a number of positive efforts occurring locally to support those made homeless by the event and related recovery needs, and insurers are busy providing claims services to help people back on their feet financially. But everyone should understand the magnitude of the destruction and the huge challenges that the whole community faces for the future.

Former FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate was recently quoted talking about our society’s failure to plan for the worst case scenario. A quick Google search shows that he’s been talking about this for at least a decade, imploring not only emergency managers and government agencies to start a shift in thinking, but also calling on **residents to recognize and acknowledge that government alone cannot avert the destruction and suffering** from the next flood, hurricane or wildfire to come along. Hopefully, the Camp Fire is the motivation for communities all over the country facing natural hazard risks to engage, plan and act to address the situation long before the next deadly event occurs.

### Sources of Risk

The Camp Fire represents (to borrow a Tom Clancy phrase, which is really from Winston Churchill) “the sum of all fears” in the WUI environment. We understand the dangers associated with the alignment of wind, topography, fuels and time of day to predict “major runs” at the tactical level. Tubbs, Thomas, and Camp - all are incidents where the elements mentioned above came into alignment and “urban conflagrations” resulted, leading to the associated large losses of life and property. Each of these began as wildfires. Some accumulating sources of risk promoting “urban conflagration alignment” include but are not limited to:

- Decades of incremental urban expansion into historically wildfire-prone areas
- 100+ years of mostly 100% wildfire suppression policy
- Decades of fund reductions in fuels management
- Decades of aquifer reductions secondary to population increase and water use
- Decades of drier western climate, regardless of the reason, evidenced through longer fire seasons, and declining forest health
- Higher density construction in the WUI, increased use of lightweight construction

## Building Codes Consideration - NFPA Journal, Jan Feb 2018, by Jesse Roman

...many experts believe that we know enough about the science of home ignition right now to largely prevent homes and other structures from burning during wildfires.

“I believe, and I think most professionals in the field believe, that we could build ignition-resistant communities today where people wouldn’t even have to leave their homes during a wildfire—the wildfire could pass right through the neighborhood, and not affect any of the structures,” said Gary Marshall, the former longtime fire marshal in Bend, Oregon. “We hear all the time that this wildfire problem is just a forest health problem, but it’s not. It’s a structure problem.”

Jack Cohen, one of the nation’s preeminent experts in wildfire structure ignition, spent 40 years as a researcher with the U.S. Forest Service studying the various ways that wildfires can cause homes to catch fire. In the vast majority of cases, he says, houses are ignited not through direct contact with the wildfire itself, but by embers blown in from the fire front. Through housing design and construction material choices—metal roofs, screens over gutters, gravel instead of mulch landings, decks made of composite materials rather than wood—homes can be sufficiently hardened to prevent firebrands from setting them ablaze. Keeping the space 100 feet around the home clear of things like dry brush, tall grass, and wooden fences can cut off other paths the fire can take to reach the house. Combined, these methods have demonstrated, in dozens of experiments, the ability to dramatically reduce the likelihood of home ignition, Cohen said. And they are all steps that local governments can mandate through codes and ordinances during the building permitting process. Guidance is available in NFPA 1141, and NFPA 1144.